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Residents are passionate about MH, says consultant

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

Any crowd steering a township into its future should ask its people about the direction in which they'd like to see their community go.

So Minden Hills council tasked consultants to go to the people and find out what the municipality's priorities should be.

Authentic engagement with the community is paramount for a community plan to provide meaningful direction.

"One that genuinely seeks input from those invested in the future of the success of the township," Jenn Harrington said.

Harrington and Andy Mitchell are both from Arising Collective. That's a consulting firm that specializes in engagement, planning, research, and communications for non-profit and public sector organizations.

A draft report of the feedback provided by Minden Hills residents was presented to council when it met March 13.

Council earmarked $50,000 in its 2023 budget for the development of a strategic plan for the township. With turnover in senior leadership positions, the work to develop a strategic plan was not initiated and the money remained in the capital program.

So staff recommended in 2024 an iterative process toward a strategic or community priority plan that started with a community engagement program.

"From a consultant's perspective, it's the voices of your community," Harrington said of information gleaned from the engagement process.

That community engagement program included an on-line survey, in-person and virtual town halls, focus group sessions, and individual interviews. The engagement program is the key building block for the township's strategic community priority plan.

"This engagement was successful because the people of the community were willing to engage," Mitchell said.

More than 700 people provided input, he said. That's a pretty significant response.

"It speaks to the passion of the community for the community," he said. "And I think that speaks really, really well of the township."

The key observations can be summarized in five points: People are the community's foundation; rurality needs protection against growth; turning fear of change into an embrace of the future; revitalizing downtown to inspire a spirit of renewal; and council should both govern and lead the community.

He said those are the "five large buckets of findings" provided by the community.

"People felt that there are many things that could be done," Mitchell said. "Investments that could be made, changes that could be made. People were cognizant of the potential costs of doing that. I think there was a good understanding that not everything could happen all at once."

And that's where the need to prioritize comes in, he said.

Mitchell said Minden Hills wants to build on its natural and built assets as it renews itself in an inclusive and comprehensive manner.

"Building on the diversity of its residents' talents and through an invigoration of volunteerism, leveraging of social networks, and with the leadership of council, it intends to

see RESIDENTS' page 2

Dublin over with laughter

Fun was had by all at Boshkung's St. Patrick's Karaoke over the weekend. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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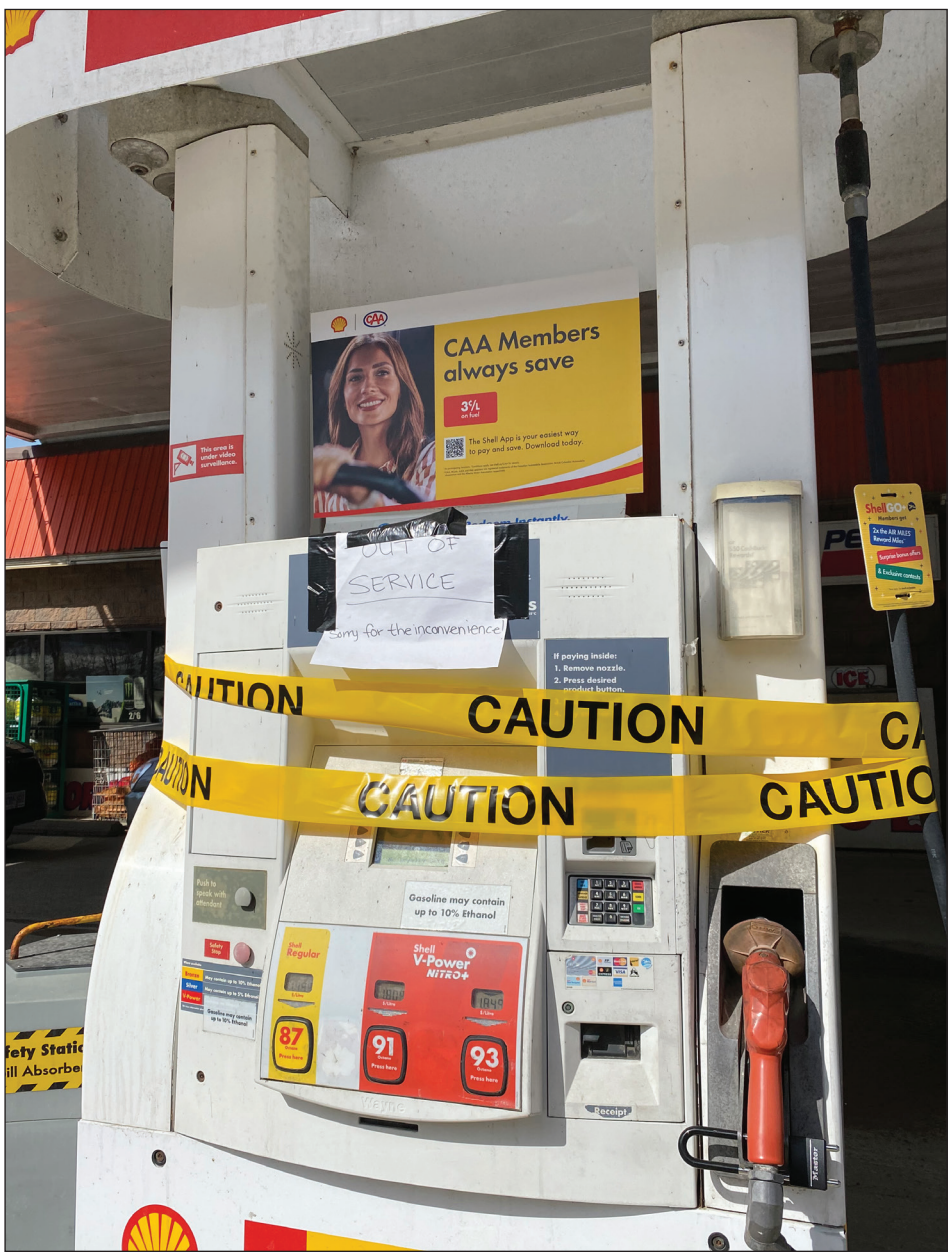


The gas pumps at the Shell station in front of Jug City on Highway 35 are wrapped up and closed down indefinitely. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Jug City closed up

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Minden locals would notice that the Jug City establishment on Highway 35 has been closed down. Yellow tape wrapped around the three gas pumps, and a hand-written sign on the door that says "Temporarily closed, sorry for the inconvenience."

On March 14, moving trucks were parked along the front side of the store. Upon entering, the shelves had all been cleared off, with boxes being loaded into the truck.

While the *Times* inquired about reasoning or an opportunity to offer insight around the closure to the community, the staff onsite declined comment.

The property had been owned by Hamza Kahlid, who last spoke to the *Times* in regards to the rent increase for the tenants of that building in December of 2022.

The *Times* reached out to Kahlid, and at the time of publication had not received a response.

The surrounding tenants intend to stay open, with one making a social media post indicating that they are still in business, despite the Jug City Closure. "We are still open!" said Pet Tyme - Animal Krackers. "Come on down to the Shell Gas Plaza in Minden ... the gas station might be closed but you can still get your pet and livestock food/feeds and you can go bowling downstairs and you can get your hair done at the end unit!"

The tenants shared that they do not have a clear understanding of the sudden closure, either, but are hopeful their businesses can stay open.

Residents' input crucial to setting plan priorities

from page 1

establish community priorities that address all segments of the community, while contributing to an increased standard of living and a better quality of life," he said.

"The journey may be long, and it may be challenging, but it needs to begin now."

Councillor Tammy McKelvey said it seemed to her the engagement process seemed to focus on downtown more than the township's rural parts.

Mitchell said it is important for effective community engagement to consult all areas of a community and to be as comprehensive as possible in reaching people.

"We reached out but probably would have liked to have gotten more input from seasonal residents," he said. "They did participate, but we would've liked them to be more."

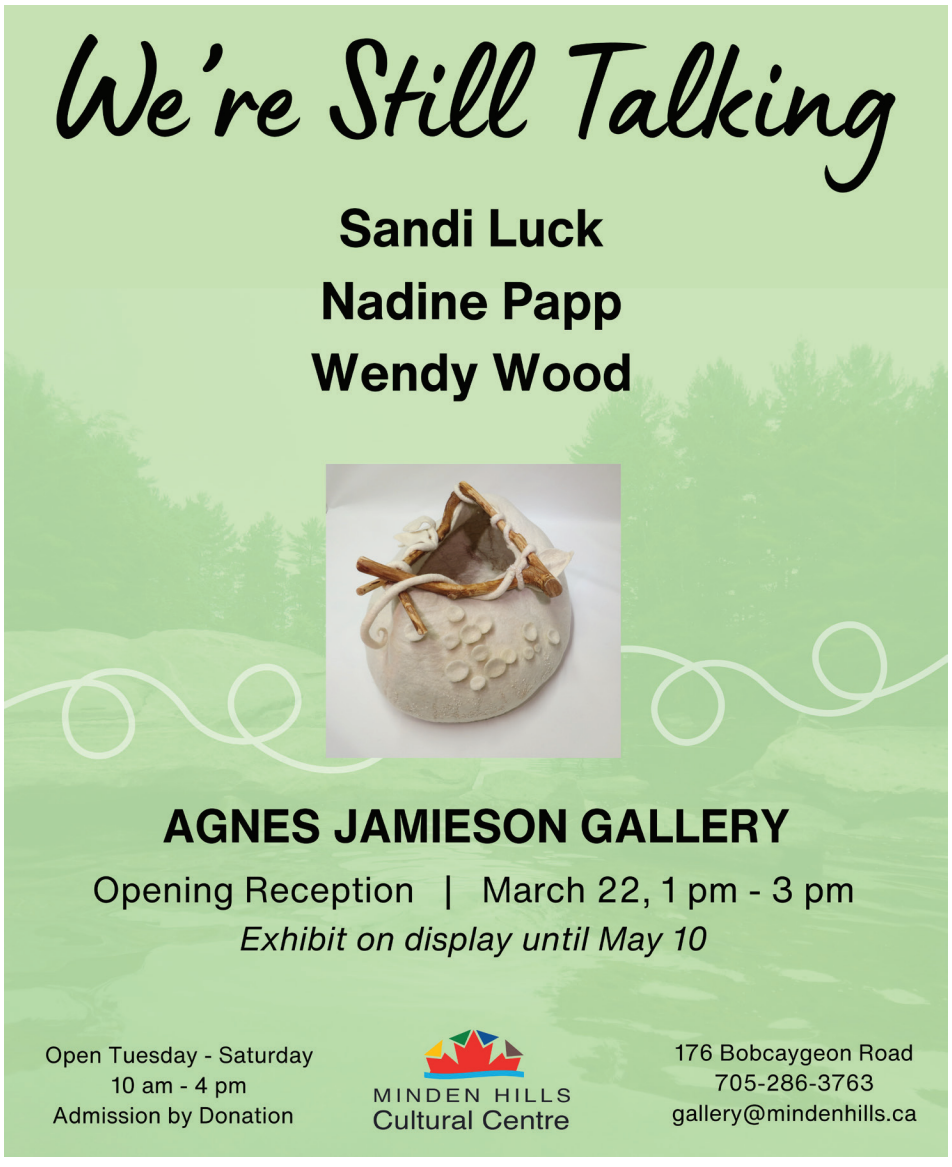
People grappling with socio-economic issues are harder to reach, he said.

"They're preoccupied with managing their lives," said Mitchell.

Mayor Bob Carter said the strategic priority plan is an answer to residents who asked council to lead as well as govern.

"This is putting together the plan that council can go forward with," Carter said. "But it's ensuring that we have the input of the community to say what we go forward with as opposed to just leading us all madly off in all directions."

"One of the comments that we got was an appreciation by residents that council has embarked on this," Mitchell said.



Minden preps for freshet

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

It's that time of year again.

Residents of Minden Hills are no strangers to rising water levels as spring approaches. With a rain advisory that soaked the county on March 15 and 16, the Minden Wastewater Treatment Plant began a tertiary sand filter bypass to close off the weekend.

This precaution is a result of high flows caused by steady rain and the spring freshet.

'Freshet' is a term used to describe an overflow of water as a result of melts. While it is often used synonymously with floods, the reality of the situation is that freshets are annual occurrences; always present anywhere ice and snow are softening.

Currently, at the time of press, the Gull River that flows through the downtown core is stable, but many individuals are suffering from flooded basements as a result of the onslaught of rain over the weekend.

The Ontario Clean Water Agency (OCWA) is the organization responsible for ensuring the safety of the drinking water in the area. The agency is familiar with the ebbs and flows of springtime in Minden, having serviced rural municipalities and their drinking water needs for over 30 years.

As a result of the sand filter bypass, OCWA has notified local health authorities, and will continue to provide samples as per the Environmental Compliance Approval.

Any notifications about boil advisories from tap water will be shared via the Township of Minden Hills social media pages and website. Residents are reminded that any water taken from a surface water source, such as a lake or a river, must always be properly treated in an effort to remove pathogens prior to using as a drinking, or potable, water source.

All wastewater treated at the Minden plant is still receiving both primary and secondary treatments prior to discharge, and sand filtering will resume as soon as OCWA deems fit.

For the most timely updates, visit www.mindenhills.ca.

The Fork + Flour Craft Kitchen in the heart of Minden opened their doors in February, and have been welcoming all those interested to try out their homemade food. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Flour power; Minden's newest restaurant ready to roll

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Jason Maurice needed a change.

Originally hailing from Quebec, but having grown up on the East Coast and varying parts of Ontario, Maurice knew he wanted the pace of a small town one day.

Maurice had started cooking at the age of 14, but shifted gears as he grew up to focus on carpentry. After spending years in the contracting industry, he returned to his first love; a passion for food.

He and his partner, Andrea Mousseau, found a lease opportunity in Nelson, British Columbia last spring, at a not-for-profit golf course. While this allowed Maurice to dive back into the restaurant business, it wasn't all rainbows and butterflies.

"We were chased out by the wildfires," he said, noting the tumultuous summer season the West Coast had faced, with forest fires ravaging cities by the day. It was a challenging time for many, and Maurice shared that he still experiences some post traumatic stress disorder from the event.

As he and Mousseau spent their final West Coast days packing up the kitchen at the golf course, the future uncertain, she spotted the listing for the site in Minden. Mousseau had ties to the region, so this seemed like a bright spot in a challenging time.

The couple took possession of the site on Sept. 1, 2024, and had visions of opening by October. But the state of the building had other plans. "We were headed into six months of renovations," Maurice shared, at least grateful for his background in carpentry and contracting.

They dove in head-first, and cleaned and gutted the whole building, which formerly housed Reflections Family Restaurant on Bobcaygeon Road, in the heart of Minden.

They were able to officially open the doors to the newly named Fork + Flour Craft Kitchen on Feb. 8, just in time for Valentine's Day. "It's been really good so far," said Maurice. "We haven't really advertised yet, it's all been by word of mouth. And we already have our regulars who come in every day."

Maurice shared that he doesn't want to be "pigeon-holed" by certain types of food. "I'd say we do world cuisine," he said, referencing the wide variety of dishes on the menu, including comfort foods and homemade breads and soups.

The Fork + Flour Craft Kitchen Facebook page currently has a 100 per cent approval from their reviews that are continuing to pour in. "The place has a fresh, welcoming vibe and the staff is lovely," wrote one user. "We're looking forward to enjoying more of their food - happy to have another place downtown Minden serving up different options!"

Fork + Flour is located at 105 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden.

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- Summer Students for Parks, Recreation, Cultural Centre, and Finance
- Part-Time Waste Facilities Operator
- Volunteer Firefighters

Visit www.mindenhills.ca/careers for more information and how to apply.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

• *We're Still Talking*, an exhibit of fibre works by local artists will be on display from March 20 - May 10 in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery. Opening reception with the artists on March 22. See separate ad for more details.

• The UnFinished Objects (UFO) Craft Group will be meeting at the Cultural Centre on Friday, March 21 1:00pm - 3:00 pm.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- **March 27 – Regular Council Meeting**
- **April 10 – Regular Council Meeting**

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: REDEVELOPMENT OF LOCHLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Township of Minden Hills is seeking partners for the re-development of the Community Centre (4713 Gelert Road, Lochlin) and is requesting Expressions of Interest. All replies to or questions about this notice should be submitted by emailing Wendelin Lonergan, Director of Finance, at wlonergan@mindenhills.ca. For complete details and proposal requirements, please visit www.mindenhills.ca/newsroom.

Deadline for submission: March 24, 2025, by 12:00 noon.

SPRING LOAD RESTRICTIONS (HALF LOADS) IN EFFECT

Half Load weight restrictions are placed on roadways and posted each year in the spring for approximately 1-2 months. Persons contravening this regulation will be prosecuted under Section 122 of The Highway Traffic Act. Please watch for and obey posted signage.

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AH property owners get 4% tax increase

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

Two days of judicious pruning reduced Algonquin Highlands' tax levy increase by a little more than one per cent.

The final draft of the 2025 municipal capital and operating budget includes a tax levy increase of 5.6 per cent over last year. That means an increase to property owners of about four per cent this year.

Add the county and education taxes, the residents will see a new rate of 4.095 per cent.

It's just under an extra $16 for every $100,000 value assessed to a property.

The first draft budget reflected an increase in the municipal levy of 7.03 per cent.

Council and staff reviewed the budget's first draft over two days in February and some line items were clipped from the spending suggestions.

Included among the cuts was a mobile waste truck service at Hawk Lake and the remaining funds in the Hawk Lake Reserve were redirected to the Parking Reserve.

Council reduced money to establish a parking master plan and directed staff to nix a pickleball courts project. Council whittled the budget down by $8,000 related to the wrap for the new maintenance trailer.

A $50,000 contribution to reserve for trails cost centre was reduced and council approved an additional wage increase of two per cent in response to market trends for 2025 and in keeping with the local municipalities within Haliburton County. The total wage increase will be four per cent.

The changes above also reduced the dollars projected to come from the township reserves purse. The first draft budget anticipated a reduction in the reserve balance of 11 per cent. The second draft shows a six per cent reduction.

Council and staff reduced the levy requirement by about 1.41 per cent which equates to a cost savings of as much as $94,650 on a $7 million budget, said Jean Hughes, the township's treasurer.

"All of this work that we did actually reduced the amount that we had planned initially to use from the reserves," she said. "We had a reduction of 11 per cent initially and, with all of the changes, we reduced that reduction to six per cent."

> "All of this work that we did actually reduced the amount that we had planned initially to use from the reserves"
>
> — JEAN HUGHES, AH TREASURER

Councillor Sabrina Richards asked if there is enough money in the reduced amount set aside for the parking master plan to include community engagement efforts.

"I think that's very important," she said. "I know it was in the big parking master plan (amount), but (what about) in this smaller one?"

Chris Card, the township's parks, recreation, and trails manager, said the revised sum doesn't include coin for engagement.

"I haven't had an opportunity yet to re-engage the consultant who gave us this budgetary quote to get an updated proposal specific to this," he said.

The community engagement portion of the price was an extra $10,000, he said.

"Which is not included in the budget," Mayor Liz Danielsen said.

"Correct," Card said.

"It was a substantial amount that we set aside for a consultant," Danielsen said. "One should never do this, but I had assumed that most projects like that, that are run by a consultant, do include community engagement."

"The plan was that we had allocated $20,000 and it was being funded from the parking reserve," Hughes said.

That amount for the parking master plan could be increased, if council wishes. Either way, the coin will come from parking reserve funds so it won't have an effect on the budget's tax levy, she said.

"I think that it would be unwise to make plans for parking that are then going to require those stakeholders affected to pay for and they don't want to pay for it and then we've built a parking lot nobody wants to pay for," Richards said. "I don't think that's a wise path to take."

Adam Thorn, the township's public works manager, said the intention since 2018 has been for a paid parking option. But at the end of the day the amount of road allowance limits what can be done without major construction involving blasting rock or land purchases.

"That hasn't been directed by council," Thorn said. "The information that the engineer has brought forward has been based on what council has brought to staff to date."

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Lenten Lunches
When: Wednesdays at noon
Where: March 19 – Highland Hills United Church
March 26 – St. Paul's Anglican Church
April 2 – Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Church
April 9 – Minden Bible Church
Service at noon followed by Soup Lunch. By Donation.

Support and independence: Finding the balance
Aging Together as Community and the County of Haliburton:
When: Friday, March 21
Where: Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 129, Haliburton or by Zoom
Time: 2:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Growing older brings changes, but you can stay healthy and live comfortably in your home for many years. Please join us to learn more. Register by March 18 by calling/texting Connie Wood 705-457-7215, or by email constancewood@gmail.com.

Knitting for Warmth Cupcake Tea
When: Tuesday, March 251:30 to 3:30 p.m.
Where: Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle St. - Lower Level
Knitting For Warmth 3,000th Blanket Celebration. In appreciation for the 99,000 (8x8) squares made for our blankets. Because of you, someone is warm tonight. See our blanket display and receive information.
Highland Hills Outreach Project Mary Trepanier 705-286-5173

HHOA Wild Game Dinner
When: Saturday, March 29, Bar opens at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall
Tickets: $50 person
Silent Auction. 50/50 draw. For credit card purchases call Laurie at HHOA on Tuesday and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 705 457-9664 or Linda at 705 457-2064. Drop in to see Laurie at HHOA on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The wild game served at this event has not been inspected under the R.S.O. meat inspection act. Domestic meat available.
Website: hhoa.on.ca

Recurring events

Free Balanced Fitness and Active Social Senior Classes

When: Every second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Seniors Chair Exercises
When: Thursdays at 1 p.m.
Where: St. George's Anglican Church, 617 Mountain Street
Please join us for safe and gentle exercises for seniors to help with balance, strength and flexibility. Free to join.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church
617 Mountain Street
Lakeside Church Service
When: Sunday at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Where: 9 Park Street, Haliburton.
Whoever you are, wherever you've been, you are welcome here.

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

JOB FAIR DAY 2025

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16
8:30 AM TO 2:30 PM
Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Gym
HHSS RED HAWKS
Haliburton County Home Builders Association www.hchba.ca

THE HALIBURTON COUNTY HOME BUILDERS' ASSOCIATION IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HHSS IS WORKING TO ADDRESS THE EMPLOYEE SHORTAGE IN THE COUNTY!

Job Fair Day will be an event where businesses of all different sizes and industries from across Haliburton County will be on display in the high school gym for students to meet and learn what is available *close to home.* This is a perfect place for students to bring their resumes and talk to employers about co-op jobs, volunteer positions, summer jobs or post secondary employment.

This is not a 'trade' only Job Fair. We would like to include as many businesses as possible from across Haliburton County. We will also have outdoor space available for any participants who would like to bring larger tools or equipment. The more interactive your space is, the more engaged the students will be.

Questions?
Reach out to **Aggie Tose by phone at 705-457-6901 or by email info@hchba.ca**

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Canoe FM, its listeners benefit local charities

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

In an archive photo from 2011, station manager Roxanne Casey stands outside Canoe FM showcasing the old logo that was used. The station is now celebrating over 20 years in the Highlands, and the impressive amount it has given back to the community through Radio Bingo. /file photo

Canoe FM doesn't blow their own horn enough for the good they help the community achieve.

Other than a short press release, listeners and those who don't listen would never know the impact the non-profit volunteer-driven radio station has on the Haliburton Highlands community.

The station has four paid staff. Backing them up is a contingent of more than 120 volunteers. A board of directors is elected from that gaggle of community-minded individuals.

Canoe FM let word out recently that $75,000 generated from its weekly Radio Bingo since July 2024 has been distributed to local charitable endeavours and community groups.

That a handsome sum generated in less than a year.

"Just an idea that one of our volunteers brought to the table," said Roxanne Casey, the radio station's manager.

The station itself is of the community. And they, along with the Bingo participants, are giving back to the community.

Radio Bingo is played weekly on Tuesday. A player can net $800 in an evening or as much as $2,400 if it's a Triple Tuesday.

What else you going to do on a Tuesday night, right?

Casey said they're thrilled to give back and help "strengthen the incredible organizations that make our community vibrant and resilient."

Basically, in her estimation, that's what community radio is all about. Especially since it is a way local listeners and Bingo players can contribute with Canoe FM.

Voices that aren't broadcast over the airwaves are heard through charitable donations.

"Thanks to the ongoing support from our listeners and the success of Radio Bingo, we are able to share these proceeds with other vital non-profits doing important work in our community," Casey said.

She said she likes to think that participants are aware of the difference they make. They enable the continuation of community radio and they bolster the efforts of food banks, summer non-profit events, Point in Time, the local Speakers Series, and others.

That's food banks. Plural.

"We're always going to the food banks and the heat bank," Casey said.

She said there's been instances when groups working to make a difference without government grant money has reached out to the radio station for a possible bump.

Canoe FM helps out when it can.

"This is what community radio is all about," Casey said. "Thanks to the ongoing support from our listeners and the success of Radio Bingo, we are able to share these proceeds with other vital non-profits doing important work in our community."

And the weekly Bingo games brings the community together in other ways, she said.

"Lots of people have Bingo parties," Casey said.

They'll get together around the radio, play their cards, and then break bread together and talk and laugh afterwards.

"If there's non-profits out there, maybe they should reach out to us," Casey said.

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InOtherWords

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Open/shut

AS I sit and type this, I am sitting inside Minden's new restaurant, Fork + Flour. The energy is good, the sun is shining, and it feels optimistic.

I had just come directly from Jug City, where the owners refused an interview, or offered any clarification on the sudden closure, though the community will speculate. As is the nature of a small town.

Open, shut, open, shut.

My son listens to a song with those words. In the video, it's a small fish, swimming through a coral reef, popping in and out of shells and playing peek-a-boo with the aquatic life he meets along the way.

Open, shut, open, shut.

That's what I keep singing in my head.

And not just because these kids' songs are the catchiest jingles of all time, but because that's the way things seem to go.

When one door opens, another door shuts. Quite literally, in this town.

I drive back and forth between Minden and Haliburton very often. And I think an entire newspaper could be dedicated to the many openings and closures that occur on a regular basis between the two communities.

This isn't even including the many small villages on the fringe of the larger centres. But I know the plagues of open, shut, open, shut, happen to hit them too.

It takes a tremendous amount of courage and bravery to open a business. It is absolutely not for the faint of heart. It requires resilience, strength, financial backing, and most importantly, a dream.

Those other things come and go. But once a dream is dead, it's nearly impossible to bring it back.

While we navigate the nuances of buying local, we have to remember that in our small towns, these businesses have faces behind them. They're our neighbours, our friends, our family.

And sometimes, these sales they make are the difference between open, shut, open shut.

But it's not always just the sales, for these places. It can also be the reception.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Small towns are notorious for maintaining the status quo. This means we have hometown pride; a dedication to our locals and sometimes, an innate sense of ownership that prevents us from broadening our horizons.

But a reminder of the courage and bravery it takes to open a business. And while some businesses run their course, others are forced to shutter based on a lack of support from locals, from municipalities, or from communities as a whole.

Killing a dream doesn't come easy. It's not one bad review that tips them over the edge. One slow day that makes them throw in the towel. It's repetitive actions. It's walls built up where there should be bridges, backs turned that should be embraced, doors slamming that should be opened.

Open, shut, open, shut.

The cycle continues.

Now if you'll excuse me, I'm going to enjoy my bacon and eggs.

The spring boat show

WE LIVE in a civilized, rational, and scientific world. (I'm assuming no one is reading this from the U.S.)

That's why, right now our gold standard for predicting if spring comes early or late is based on whether a groundhog sees its shadow. Here in Canada, we use Wiarton Willy, a predictable, pleasant, and fact-driven groundhog. In the U.S., they rely on that gas lighter known as Punxsutawney Phil, who, whenever convenient, tells Americans that Joe Biden manipulated his shadow and delayed spring.

Of course, as rational people, we know that utilizing either subterranean rodent is not a precise way to determine if spring is on its way, for obvious reasons. I mean, you just can't trust anything that American groundhog has to say. And what happens if Wiarton Willy's vision starts to fail? He is, after all, getting old.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

No, a far better way to determine if we have much more winter left is to get outside and look at the overturned boats on you and your neighbour's front lawns or yards. If the boats are still covered in snow, we have a lot more winter ahead of us. If you can see parts of them, spring is on its way and will likely be here by July at latest.

This method has never failed me.

The good news is that I looked out at my overturned boat on its sawhorses this morning as well as my canoe and discovered that I can now see both. Which is good because for most of the winter I forgot where I left them, although I did wonder why we had a six-foot-high snow mound over there.

But now that I can see them, I will confidently predict that spring is just around the corner – give or take two months.

This means the snow will be leaving the lawns and yards of this great nation. And our melt off will expend itself, hopefully in a calm or orderly manner, so we small boat owners will be left with the great challenge of flipping our overturned boats onto our trailers and then picking up the trailer tongue and manually pulling the trailer across a lawn that is too waterlogged for a vehicle in early spring.

This is no small feat. But only because it requires us enlisting help from our best friends. (In this case, best friend is a nebulous term describing anyone who volunteers.) This would not be an issue if not for the prevalence of back ailments at this time of year. I'm not sure why medical science hasn't addressed this, but it's always the case and very similar to the seasonal ailments that are very common during ice hut removal time.

The good news is, I believe I have found a cure.

Invite a friend over for a coffee and then make mention that he or she is looking a bit frail and that winter seems to have taken a toll on their muscle tone. This will cause the person to unwisely push back with words that refute this.

Ideally, with something like, "Nonsense, I'm as strong as a horse!"

After that, help flipping your boat onto your trailer and dragging the trailer to the driveway where your vehicle resides is all but assured.

It's wonderful to imagine this right now with ice hut removal season in full swing. Hopefully, my ailing back will get better soon.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Keeping up to date

ON OCTOBER 14, 2025, Windows 10 will reach its end-of-life date. This doesn't mean that your computer running Windows 10 won't turn on or will stop working. What it does mean is Windows 10 will no longer receive updates, including critical security patches.

Making sure our devices are up to date is kind of like flossing or making sure you eat enough fibre. Neither task is particularly exciting, but they are important ways to keep your body healthy and functioning. Sure, if you don't floss or get enough fibre your body will still work, but you'll be at greater risk of certain things going wrong. Likewise, if you don't keep your phones, computers, and tablets updated with the latest updates and security patches, you'll be at risk of certain things going wrong with them too.

Hardware and software are developed and released on a schedule determined by the manufacturer or company that make them. Roughly speaking there's a launch date, a period through which they are actively updated with improvements, a period through which they are updated for critical security purposes, and then the end-of-life date after which they are no longer supported.

Devices running software after that end-of-life date are much more susceptible to being hacked. This can include anything from stealing your sensitive personal and financial information to being recruited to a botnet where its computing power is used for illegal purposes. If you are using a device that connects to the internet, it is important that you keep those devices up to date.

ERIN KERNOHAN-BERNING

Humans and Technology

For most devices and operating systems there is an option to download and install updates automatically as they are released. Ensuring this is enabled, which it usually is by default, will mean that your device will update overnight when you're not using it. Different corporations handle how their products are updated differently. Microsoft, for example, tends to send out critical updates for Windows to users more or less all at once. Similar with Apple updating their iOS devices such as iPhones and iPads.

With Android phones things can be a bit more complicated. The Android operating system itself is updated regularly, however it can depend on the phone manufacturer and even the cellular network when individual phones receive those updates. According to an October 2024 *Forbes* article, at that time 25 per cent of Android phones were running end-of-life software – a whopping 750 million phones vulnerable to some very serious security issues.

As software is updated, it may become incompatible with older hardware, adding an extra layer of complexity, as is the case with Windows 10's replacement, Windows 11. This newer version of Windows relies on hardware introduced into most computers after 2017. If your computer is newer than 2017, odds are you will be able to upgrade to Windows 11 without an issue. If your computer is older, you may be unable to upgrade to Windows 11. For most in this situation, this means having to buy a new computer.

There are alternatives to buying a new computer if you're determined to keep that older computer working safely. If you're a computer enthusiast interested in learning a new operating system and understanding what needs to be done to keep that operating system secure, old hardware can be revived by switching to an operating system like Linux or Chrome OS. However, the average computer user who "just wants it work" likely won't be satisfied, or safe, with those options. If you are interested in learning though, there are many online tutorials geared toward the hobbyist for giving an older machine a new lease on life.

If you're in the position where buying a new computer is the answer, the good news is that you'll be purchasing less than halfway through Windows 11's probable life-cycle, as most Windows versions have around a 10-year lifespan (though that's not to say every computer will last that long). Whenever you buy a new computer, phone, or tablet, it pays to get a sense of how long you can count on support for it to help decide whether it's worth buying.

Updates can be a pain, and no one likes being forced into buying a new computer or phone. But keeping things up to date is an important part of owning and operating any device connected to the internet. Being vigilant about scams, being careful what you click on, and ensuring that your devices have critical updates installed are all important things you can do to stay safe online.

Minden Memories

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BY JAMES ARTHUR.

Stockton and Collier calendar postcard for March 1913 featuring a drawing of a lady having tea. The postcard advertises this grocery firm in Souris Manitoba. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Stay alert online; OPP

During Fraud Prevention Month, the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) is reminding Ontarians and businesses to stay informed and vigilant against evolving fraud threats. Cybercriminals use spoofed emails, fake websites and malware links, which are malicious links designed to install harmful software, to steal personal information, compromise business accounts and redirect payments. These tactics are becoming increasingly sophisticated, making fraud awareness and prevention critical.

Fraudulent emails and fake websites are designed to look legitimate and often claim to be from financial institutions, government agencies or well-known businesses. These messages may include copied logos, branding and professional formatting to appear authentic.

Be alert for:

• Slightly altered email addresses or domains (e.g. "opp.com" instead of "opp.ca")

• Lookalike characters

• Urgent or unexpected requests for payment or sensitive information

Ransomware is a type of malware that encrypts files or locks systems, allowing the sender to demand payment to restore access. These attacks often begin with phishing or spear phishing emails, which use deceptive messages and infected attachments or links to steal information or gain unauthorized access. Once activated, the malware spreads through the system and may remain undetected before locking critical files.

Ransomware can also be introduced through:

• Visiting unsafe or compromised websites

• Plugging in infected USB drives or external devices

• Exposing systems to the internet without proper security measures

How to Protect Yourself from Smishing Scams (SMS Phishing):

• Do not click on links, reply to messages or call numbers from unknown senders.

• Report suspicious texts by forwarding them to 7726 (SPAM).

• Delete all suspicious messages immediately.

• Keep your smartphone secure by updating your operating system and security software.

• Use multi-factor authentication for banking, social media and other sensitive accounts.

• Verify any unexpected text messages by checking official websites or contacting organizations directly.

• If you are a victim of smishing frauds, ensure to review the CAFC guide on What to do if you're a victim of fraud.

For more information on fraud prevention, visit opp.ca and sfo.opp.ca.

If you suspect fraudulent activity or have been a victim of fraud, report it immediately to your local police and the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre at 1-888-495-8501 or online via the Fraud Reporting System.

- Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week

In 2017, Angela Creighton finds a letter revealing a shocking confession and sets out to find its recipient, leading her to the secretive Jane Network – an underground abortion service in 1970s Toronto. In 1971, Dr. Evelyn Taylor, haunted by the forced adoption of her baby, joins Jane to help other women make choices she never had. By 1980, Nancy Mitchell, reeling from a family secret and facing an unplanned pregnancy, seeks Jane's help and becomes involved in their work, but struggles with the lingering lies of her past.

Looking for Jane by Heather Marshall is available to borrow as a book or book club set from the Haliburton County Public Library.

At the start of game five on Saturday, March 15, long-time Huskies volunteer Klara Oyler was awarded the King Charles III Coronation Medal for her dedication to the community over the years. The medal came as a surprise to Oyler, and was given by MPP Laurie Scott prior to the game. /TIM YANO staff photographer

Oyler celebrated with King Charles III Medal

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Klara Oyler of Minden is the county's most recent recipient of the King Charles III Coronation Medal.

Many would recognize Oyler's face at events across the county, and as of late, she is most prominently seen at our local Huskies games.

This is why it was only fitting that her medal be awarded prior to the hockey game on March 15 in Minden.

The medal - which is given out to select individuals who have significantly contributed to the overall vibrancy of a community through volunteer work - was presented by MPP Laurie Scott, to an unknowing Oyler, who was graciously surprised.

In a provincial riding of over 100,000, 30 individuals were selected across the entirety of the region. A small handful have been acknowledged in Minden and Highlands East thus far, with Oyler being the most recent. The medals are intended to be a surprise to the recipient at the time of acknowledgement.

Oyler's dedication to the community knows no bounds. "The list is endless and priceless too," said Dale Walker, a friend of Oyler.

She volunteered with the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation for 20 years, the Minden Santa Claus Parade and Canada Day committee for 10 years each, and the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation for four years. She raised funds for R.D. Lawrence Place (now known as Nature's Place), and was active with the Water Ambassadors.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Oyler jumped in to assist the local Rotary Clubs with vaccine clinics across the county. She currently volunteers with the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the Haliburton County Library, the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame, and the Haliburton County Huskies.

This list merely skims the surface of Oyler's contributions back to Minden Hills and beyond. "Klara has held several positions during her outstanding volunteer service," said Walker. "Her positions include, but are not limited to: secretary, treasurer, fundraising, committee member, organizer; using her many skills, talents, resources, and time, all while creating many laughs and a few jokes."

Anyone who knows Oyler knows this to be true.

Oyler accepted her King Charles III Coronation Medal with surprise and excitement, alongside a cheering crowd at the S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena on Saturday.

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Huskies Hockey

The Huskies have clinched the first round of the playoffs in six games against the St. Michael's Buzzers. Despite winning the series, they lost game three in Minden 4-1 and game four in Minden 2-1. The Huskies will be moving onto the second round against the Toronto Junior Canadiens on March 23 in Toronto, kicking off a best of seven series between the teams. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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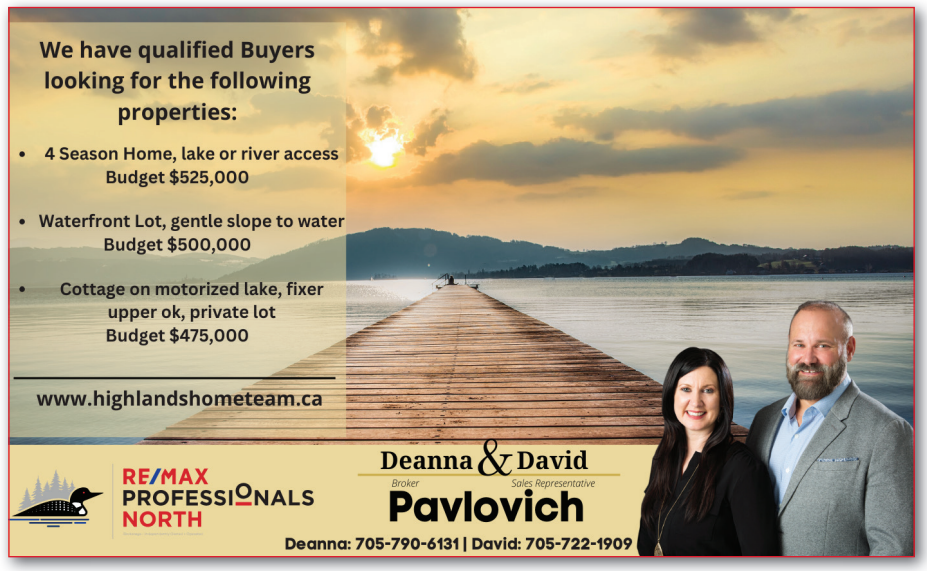

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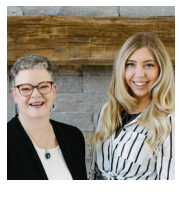

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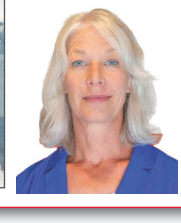

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Relentlessly onward with humanity and hope

January is in the rearview mirror, and it's time to look ahead to spring and Doc(k) Day in Haliburton!

On Saturday, April 5, at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, Those Other Movies is excited to bring five documentary films (four full-length and one short) to Haliburton. It is an opportunity to come together as a community to learn, reflect, and consider how to move forward in this world with hope.

The films have local and global connections to the arts, music, sports, and beautiful natural environments. The movies show many aspects of humanity - inspirational, challenging and hopeful.

The lineup for the day is:

10:00 a.m.: *Diane Warren: Relentless* (91 min.)

11:45 a.m.: *Save Solace* (11 min.) + Question and Answer with the director, Matt Steeves

Picnic lunch! Bring your own lunch; eat and chat together in the cafeteria.

1:30 p.m.: *Porcelain War* (87 min.)

3:30 p.m.: *Red Fever* (103 min.)

7:30 p.m.: *Beethoven's Nine: Ode to Humanity* (85 min.) + Question and Answer with director Larry Weinstein

The documentary *Diane Warren: Relentless* tells the story of a genius songwriter who has written over 400 songs for iconic artists such as Beyoncé, Taylor Swift, Celine Dion, Lady Gaga, Whitney Houston, Britney Spears, and Aerosmith. From humble beginnings, she knew what she wanted to do from a young age and was relentless in pursuing her goal. Believing in herself, daring to be herself in her own way, and never quitting, Diane Warren changed "Impossible" into "I'm possible."

The short, *Save Solace* documents the work of a group advocating to stop the planned construction of a new logging road that would dissect the Solace Wildlands, the last unprotected and roadless forest in Ontario's Temagami wilderness. Joining us will be Director Matt Steeves, who specializes in cinematic storytelling and is driven by a curiosity about the human connection with the natural world.

Porcelain War tells the story of a group of artists from Ukraine who persevere against all odds. The opening scene of a peaceful field, butterflies, and painted porcelain figures contrasts strongly with the destruction caused by war in subsequent scenes. This film shows that while it's easy to make people afraid, it's much harder to destroy their passion for living. This is a beautifully shot film that explores spaces of beauty within destruction. It is a story of love, art, friendship and survival.

Red Fever follows Cree filmmaker Neil Diamond across North America and Europe to look at a multitude of ways in which Indigenous cultures have been reduced to stereotypes. With humour and honesty, he shines a light on appropriation, misappropriation and the impact on Indigenous people.

Our evening film, *Beethoven's Nine: Ode to Humanity* follows nine people around the world who are grappling with the message of hope in Beethoven's *Symphony No. 9*. We hear from a deaf composer, a Polish rock star, an author, a legendary cartoonist and the director, Larry Weinstein. We are very pleased that Mr. Weinstein will be a special guest for the screening. This latest documentary, *Beethoven's Nine*, turned out to be deeply personal with an unexpected event that happened during the filming. Weinstein says he believes that Beethoven wrote the ninth symphony as a love letter to humanity and a love letter to the future. The film looks at the inspiration music can provide and how humanity can continue to look for hope even in the darkest times.

It will be a full day of learning, laughter, love - and maybe even enlightenment. Tickets can be reserved online at www.thoseothermovies.com under the "online store" tab. Tickets are $35 for all five films or $30 for Season Pass holders.

For more information on Doc(k) Day in Haliburton, contact: thoseothermovieshaliburton@gmail.com

-Submitted

Support Woodlands Wildlife

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary is having a spring fundraiser! Come and join us for a fun social evening and a delicious dinner at Mulligans Pub and Patio in Minden. Your generous support allows the Sanctuary to continue helping injured and orphaned wildlife. We look forward to seeing you on March 29 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca under the Events tab.

-Submitted

Skyline Dance

Skyline Dance Studio is thrilled to present its 2025 Showcase on Saturday, March 29 at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion in Haliburton. This exciting event will feature two performances at 2:30 and 6:30 p.m., showcasing all pre-competitive numbers from the studio's talented young dancers.

The showcase promises an afternoon and evening of artistry, passion, and entertainment, with a show length of two hours and 45 minutes.

Tickets are available for purchase online via social media and website.

Skyline Dance Studio is a community-based non-profit organization, dedicated to fostering a love of dance and the performing arts for youth in Haliburton and the surrounding area. For more information about the studio and its programs, visit skylinedancestudio.ca

-Submitted

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1	8	5	7	9	2	6	3	4

Stuffie Sleepover a huge success

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

Stuffies look for deer friends at Head Lake Park.

Stuffies play with the photocopier at the Minden Hills library branch. /photos submitted

This March Break, the Haliburton County Public Libraries hosted their first ever Stuffie Sleepover event. For this event, youth brought their stuffed animal to their closest Haliburton County Public Library branch. The three branches that hosted the sleepovers included Minden on Monday, March 10, Haliburton on Tuesday, March 11, and Stanhope on Friday, March 14.

Shawna Gamblen, Programming and Outreach Coordinator for Haliburton County Public Library planned the event for the stuffies, basing it on similar events held at libraries across Ontario.

For many youth and their stuffies, this was the first time that their stuffies had spent the night away from home.

Plushies were brought to the libraries from youth and their family during regular library hours.

With the help of Gamblen, the *Minden Times* was granted exclusive interview permission with the stuffies.

When the stuffies were brought to the library, their owners tucked them into beds, specially made for them at each hosting library branch. Stuffies had beds set up on the fireplace in Minden, on the shelf in Haliburton, and on the Kids' book shelf in Stanhope.

"I really liked being tucked in by the fireplace," said Charmander. "As a fire Pokemon, I felt right at home."

Once the library was closed to the public and everyone was gone, the stuffies were free to explore the library branches.

The stuffies that stayed overnight at the Haliburton branch spent time playing games on the computer, creating bookmarks for the bookmark design contest, playing with Snap Circuits, running through the parachute, exploring storytime props, completing the library's scavenger hunt, adding leaves to the Forest of Reading Tree, and looking out the window for deer in Head Lake Park.

"One time, I thought I saw a deer outside, but it turned out that it was just Moosey sitting in front of me," said Grace, the Spider Monster.

Being an electric Pokemon, Pikachu says that playing with the Snap Circuits was the best part of the sleepover in Haliburton.

Stuffies that participated in the Stuffie Sleepover in Haliburton included Grace the Spider Monster, Fluffy the Bunny, Coper the hotdog, Elmo, Moosey, Pikachu, Baby Sushi the Shark, Baby Gary the Panda, Skye, Piggy.

"I was a bit scared of the dark," said Coper, the hotdog. "But being next to my new friend Pikachu made it better."

Stuffies that slept overnight at the Minden branch enjoyed storytime, playing with the big blue blocks, playing with the photocopier, returning their books, learning to play ukulele, reading books, playing with storytime props, returning their books, and playing with Lego.

Stuffies that stayed in the Minden branch included Sonic, Bowly the Frog, Crazy Frog, Lea Von Bubbles the Wolf, Pig Pillow the Pig, Meadow the dog, Charmander, Cinnamon Bun the dog, and Marshall the dog.

"I really liked the photocopier," said Marshall, the dog. "We could make photocopies of each other while making silly faces."

"The stuffies were wonderful," said Gamblen. "They respected all of the rules of the library and didn't make too much of a mess."

Stuffies that slept overnight at the Stanhope branch enjoyed crafting at the craft corner and looking for fire trucks at the Stanhope Fire Station in addition to reading, returning their books, and playing with Lego.

Stuffies that slept over at the Stanhope branch included Cheetah, Shadow the bear, Mr. Bear, Kitty, George the monkey, Owly the Owl, Bunbun the Bunny, and Spider-Man.

I love hearing the sirens of the firetrucks go by," said Owly.

The Stuffie Sleepover was a roaring success at each of the library's branches, says Gamblen. Every participant received a special sleepover certificate. Due to the popularity of the event for both youth and the stuffies, Gamblen says that they will be offering an additional Stuffie Sleepover event day in the summer.

With no costs for the event, Gamblen hopes that the event encourages more families and their children (and their stuffies) to visit the library and use their variety of services. The Haliburton County Public Library branches try their best to reduce barriers of access, while providing safe, welcoming, and nurturing places for everyone.

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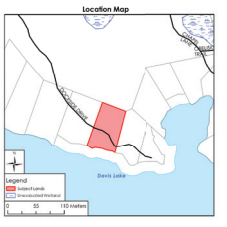
PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills has received applications to consider a by-law to stop up, close, and convey a parcel of land, being a shoreline road allowance, and more particularly described as follows:



1. **File No. PLSRA2024045:** Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake lying in front of 1108 Dockside Drive, located within Part Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

2. **File No. PLSRA2024047**: Part of the original shore road allowance along the shore of Davis Lake lying in front of parcel having roll number 4616-051-000-19000 on Dockside Drive, located within Part Lot 8, Concession 2, Geographic Township of Lutterworth

The above noted applications are available for inspection in the Planning Department located at 7 Milne Street, Minden, Ontario by appointment only. Additional information may be obtained by contacting the undersigned.

AND TAKE NOTICE should you wish to provide comments with respect to the above referenced application, please submit in writing those comments to the undersigned not later than end of day on **April 11, 2025**.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE any person who claims that their land will be prejudicially affected is asked to contact the undersigned not later than **April 11, 2025**.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE if deemed advisable, a By-law giving effect to the proposed closure and conveyance will be passed by the Council for the Corporation of the Township of Minden Hills. Please note that a Council meeting to consider a By-law for the above referenced applications will be scheduled at a later date following the requisite commenting period.

Amanda Dougherty, B.A. (Hons)
Manager of Planning
Township of Minden Hills
705-286-1260 Ext. 506
adougherty@mindenhills.ca

It's all green to me

It was all fun and games as Boshkung Brewing Co. hosted St. Patrick's Day Karaoke on Saturday, March 15 on Water Street in Minden. The crowd was energetic and lively, and made sure a good time was had by all. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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8							6	
9			6					7
			5	3			4	
	4			8		2		
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	8		7			6	3	

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Answers on page 12

Hal High student artists at the opening of the third annual Under 19 Student Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Bancroft.

Students showcase their skills

Students artists from Haliburton Highlands Secondary School shared their creative works in the third annual Under 19 Juried Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Bancroft. Thirteen artists submitted a total of 17 creative works in the regional showcase juried by visual artist and education Henry Melissa Gordon, who currently resides in Guelph, Ontario.

Several Red Hawk artists received recognition from the juror, including Olivia Brown, who's still life drawing *Moments in Time*, received the Best Drawing award. Gordon described Brown's work as "skillful and interesting." She notes that "it feels like a personal collection of objects that tells us something about the artist. It takes lots of drawing skill to show the different textures of hair, fabric, flowers, a screen, book cover and pages, and a ceramic mug." Brown is in Grade 12 and will graduate this year.

Grade 10 artist Sophia Burke received the award for Best Painting or Mixed Media work, for her acrylic on canvas work entitled *if you're so full of love, why don't you give yourself some?* Gordon stated that Burke's painting "beautifully captures a quiet, introspective moment. The composition feels right…I love the gold highlights where the legs and arms disappear into the water. The title really deepens our understanding of the painting."

Grade 9 student Annika Gervais also received an Honourable Mention in this category for her mixed media work *Open Your Eyes*. Gordon wrote: "There is a great progression in this artwork, from overwhelm and anxiety to hopefulness. The combination of drawing and collage works well to support this powerful message!"

It was a bittersweet moment for student artist Annabelle Borgdorff, who has participated in the show since its inauguration three years ago. Borgdorff will graduate this year and she took some time to reflect on this movement in her life in her mixed media work, *The Final Curtsy*.

An opening reception was held on Friday, March 6 which was attended by many of the student artists. The exhibition is presented by Karen and Gord Savage and runs at the Art Gallery of Bancroft until March 29.

-Submitted

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Invasive Species Panel:
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Kaleigh Mooney, Ecological Restoration Trent U
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Township of Algonquin Highlands

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant(s): Groff
Lying in front of Lot 30, Concession 5, Maple Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 30, Concession 5, geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 30, Concession 5, geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 30, Concession 5, described as Part 1 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11068.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the 3rd day of April, 2025 and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: March 19, 2025

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Tel: (705) 489-2379
Email: socallaghan@algonquinhighlands.ca

Township of Algonquin Highlands

PUBLIC NOTICE
Applicant(s): Southey and Southey
Lying in front of Lot 18, Concession 4, Beech Lake
Geographic Township of Stanhope

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands has declared part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 18, Concession 4, geographic Township of Stanhope, in the Township of Algonquin Highlands, County of Haliburton, to be surplus.

TAKE NOTICE that the Council of the Municipal Corporation of the Township of Algonquin Highlands proposes to enact a By-Law to stop-up, close and convey to the abutting property owner(s) that part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 18, Concession 4, described as all and singular that certain parcel or tract of land and premises situate, lying and being in the Geographic Township of Stanhope, in the County of Haliburton and being composed of the following:

FIRSTLY: THAT part of the original shore road allowance lying in front of Lot 18, Concession 4, described as Parts 1 and 2 on a Plan deposited in the Registry Office for the Registry Division of Haliburton County as Plan 19R-11053.

The proposed By-Law will come before the said Council for consideration at its regular meeting at the Algonquin Highlands Municipal Office, 1123 North Shore Road, on the **3rd day of April, 2025** and at that time, the Council will hear in person or by his/her counsel, solicitor or agent any person who claims that his/her land will be prejudicially affected and who applies to be heard. Any person who wishes to be heard by Council regarding this proposed closure must contact the Clerk to schedule a delegation with Council.

Dated: March 19th, 2025

Sean O'Callaghan
Planner
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Rd.
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
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Township of Algonquin Highlands

The Township of Algonquin Highlands is seeking applications from qualified individuals for the following positions.

Tax Administrator
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Visit our website at:
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for the complete job descriptions.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit a cover letter and resume by **3:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 2, 2025** to:

Dawn Mugford-Guay
Human Resources Coordinator
Township of Algonquin Highlands
1123 North Shore Road
Algonquin Highlands, ON K0M 1S0
Email:
dmugfordguay@algonquinhighlands.ca

570 NOTICES

NOTICE TO PEDRE FURER OR ANYONE KNOWING HIS WHEREABOUTS

IN THE ESTATE OF MICHAEL BERNARD HURLEY, late of Ottawa, Ontario who passed away on February 17, 2025.

The Executor of the Estate is seeking to locate Pedre Furer who is named as a beneficiary under the Last Will and Testament of the deceased. Pedre Furer was last known to reside in Minden, Ontario.

If you are Pedre Furer or have any information regarding their whereabouts, please contact:

Sarah Macaluso
Mann Lawyers
11 Holland Avenue, Suite 300
Ottawa, ON K1Y 4S1
Email: sarah.macaluso@mannlawyers.com

613-722-1500

Any individuals with relevant information are requested to reach out by July 12, 2025.

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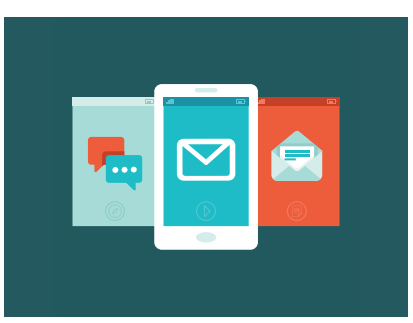

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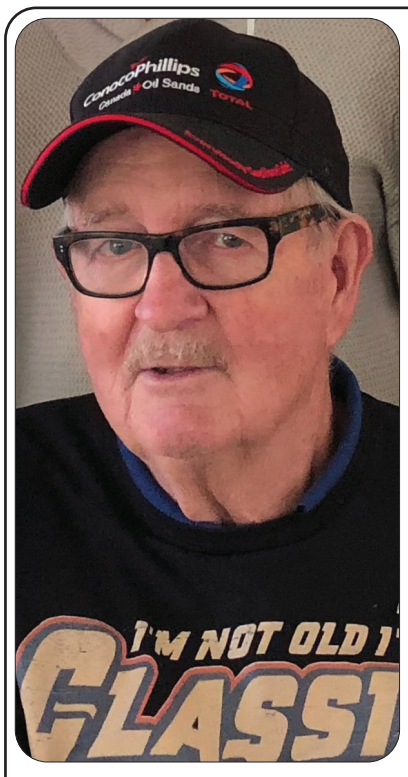


Dennis Edward Middlehurst

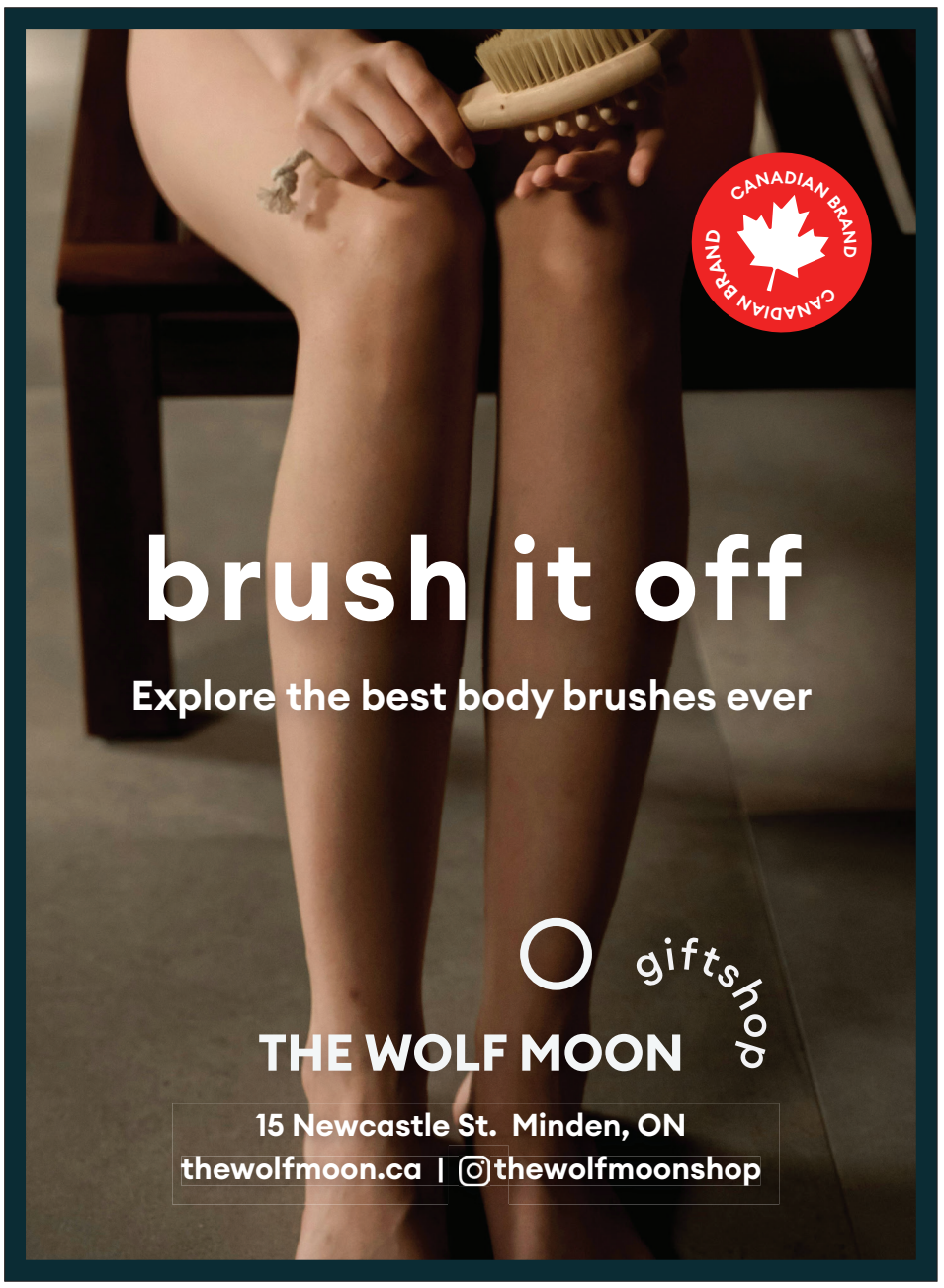
September 27, 1938 – March 1, 2025

Dennis Edward Middlehurst passed away peacefully with family by his side on Saturday, March 1st in Okotoks, AB at age 86 years. Survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Sharon (Hill) Middlehurst. Cherished father, step-father, grandpa, great-grandpa, uncle and brother-in-law. Dennis grew up on the family farm in Caledon, Ontario, and when finished school, he went to work with his father and became a carbide specialist. In 1980 he proudly launched his own business, HiQuality Carbide Tooling Inc. in Brampton, Ontario.

After retiring, he and Sharon moved to their cottage on Lake Kashagawigamog in Ingoldsby, Ontario. They quickly became active members of the community and church. Together, they created beautiful gardens on their property, mowed lots of lawn in the summer and shoveled lots of snow in the winter! They joined a bowling league, where Dennis outshone Sharon, and Dennis joined a local carving club and carved several pieces we are all quite proud of.

Dennis was a larger than life gentle and kind man who was loved by family and all who knew him.

To email condolences, please visit www.snodgrassfunerahomes.com Arrangements in care of Snodgrass Funeral Home, Okotoks. Ph. 403-938-3111.



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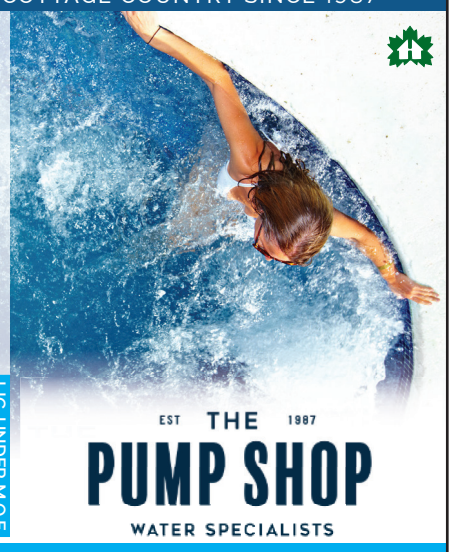

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Assistance sought from Ministry of Health

Underserviced area request endorsed

by Jerry Grozelle

The municipality will seek the help of the Ministry of Health in attempting to resolve the shortage of doctors in Minden.

Anson, Hindon and Minden council passed a resolution asking the Ministry of Health to designate the municipality an "Underserviced Area".

The Underserviced Area Program is administered by the Ministry of Health to provide financial incentives to recruit health care professionals to practise in areas of Ontario designated as underserviced.

Council considers this area underserviced since St. Joseph's Hospital has deemed it necessary to close the emergency services administered from the Minden Hospital, for a total of 40 hours per week, because there is a lack of doctors to provide on-call emergency services.

Council, and the community are making every effort to entice physicians to the area.

In its resolution, council pointed out that the Minden Hospital provides health care for a tourist area with numerous municipalities, from various counties. It was also emphasized that: "From the months of May to October, the influx of summer residents increases the population serviced by the Minden Hospital by thousands, thereby creating an even greater need for immediate restored emergency services and further intensifies the severe impact of this situation, that resulted from a lack of physicians."

Copies of the resolution are being sent to Victoria-Haliburton MPP Chris Hodgson and to the St. Joseph's Hospital Board or their support.

Development approved

Council passed a resolution agreeing in principle to a site plan submitted by Mark Coles regarding proposed development associated with the purchase of the Ogopogo Lodge property on Mountain Lake.

Council inspected the site plan at last Thursday's meeting.

"I'm pleased to see that the septic system has been moved to the back of the property, away from the lake," said reeve Jeanne Anthon.

Agreement in principle was granted on the conditions that parking be upgraded to municipal standards, that a site plan agreement is entered into with the purchaser, and that final health approval is obtained.

During council's discussions it was agreed that two other provisions: namely, that the two existing cabins be relocated to meet municipal setback specifications; and that planning fees be

(more on page 4)

Modern-day gladiators battle it out with what one observer described as over-sized Q-Tips, during HHSS spirit week activities. For a report on the fun and games at the high school, see page 19. (Photo by Misty Bennett)

Number of boards studied

by Andrew Milne

Minister of Education and Training Dave Cooke announced February 23 that the number of boards of education in Ontario would be reduced by 40 to 50 percent.

But it is unclear at this point whether this will affect the Haliburton board.

In the same announcement, Cooke announced initiatives apparently aimed at controlling administrative costs within boards, and at decreasing the number of trustees.

The administrative officers of the Haliburton board, along with administrative officers from across the province met with Cooke the same day to discuss the plan. Director of education Brad Saunders, superintendent of business Jim Bradley, and superintendent of education Dale Robinson returned from To-

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Happy with Highlands Hospitality

Happy to say Hello or Howdy in the Haliburton Highlands, participants in the Women on Snow weekend form a giant H with their machines before heading out for the first day's trail ride. The Hospitality shown during the weekend quickly convinced more than 100 to pre-register for next year's event.

by Carol Moffatt

They came, they rode, and they raised more than $14,000 for Easter Seals. The first visit of Women on Snow roared into the Highlands last weekend (Feb. 17, 18, 19) and, from all accounts, was a resounding success.

Sixty-three year old Marie McDonald was one of the oldest riders last weekend. Hailing from the Ottawa Valley area, McDonald was riding with her longtime sledding partner Elda Cook, 63, and her daughter-in-law Kim, 37.

"They fussed over us all week. When I left, my husband only said to have fun and check the oil," said McDonald, the elder, with a laugh.

"My husband was so relaxed he left to go fishing, so I got a couple of goodlooking young guys in my neighbourhood to load my sled for me," added Cook, with a wink.

For them, the weekend in Haliburton was well worth the visit.

"Fantstic, and really well organized," were two terms they used to describe their ex-

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Chapter Spotlight **Advertorial**

Haliburton County HBA President Tom Neville accepts the Warden's Award from 2024 County Warden Liz Danielsen. At right, students from J. Douglas Hodgson Elementary School piece together a model home.

Haliburton County HBA

FOUNDED: 1991 **MEMBERS:** 63

EXECUTIVE OFFICER AGGIE TOSE

OHB: So it's 31 years for you as EO at HCHBA. How'd it all start?

Aggie Tose: "I was hired by Gary Burtch (G.J. Burtch Construction) in 1993. I thought it was part-time, but my mother warned me that Gary would have me doing a lot more. She was right. It was more like 45 hours a week. Gary was EO of Haliburton County HBA at the time and was gradually putting more and more association stuff on my desk, and eventually said to the executive, 'You know, I'm not really doing this anymore—Aggie's doing it.'"

You're a staff of one, but you're everywhere for OHBA events. What's your annual mileage?

"It would be too scary to calculate. I attend other locals' events, national and provincial conferences, national board meetings, EO meetings, working-from-heights and other training events locally... I'd ballpark around 460 functions this year, with maybe 100 outside Haliburton."

You've made huge inroads with local schools in the past year.

"We doubled up on our work with the high schools and elementary schools, partnering with the County Council. I was able to get almost $8,000 for school materials and tools from them, which was about what Haliburton County HBA had spent out of our own pockets in 2023. Then, in November, we learned that the high school's half-century-old planer was regularly down, so we bought them a new $10,000 planer and got it installed over Christmas by one of our members. The kids have been just tickled working away with it.

"We are also preparing for our third annual bus tour on May 28. We'll be picking up the kids at school and taking them to a municipal office and building department, showing them the process from where the permit comes in, how it goes through the system and what happens afterward with inspectors and the contractors. Our next stop is Thomas Contracting, a huge plant whose services including milling stone and sand. Then down the highway is Kegel Heating & Cooling, where they manufacture their own tin work. And then we'll finish off the bus tour at one of our top sponsors, Ridgewood Ford, to see how their mechanic shop operates.

"We're trying to show the kids that it's not all hammers and nails. Many of our members need licensed mechanics, people in the office, computer-aided design experts, etc."

What are your proudest achievements as an HBA?

"One that sticks out, and it's where we picked up several new sponsors and members, was our united stand a year and a half ago when the county tried to push through a shoreline bylaw that would have shut down everything from landscaping to building. We were able to bring them back to a more workable agreement. We even had input from one of our members' friends—a researcher in New Zealand. Their biggest issue was water protection and soil retention. That's obviously very important to us too, but they were requesting far beyond what we believed to be necessary, and it would only apply to new projects. Existing owners whose lawns ran right down to the water would not have had to adjust their waterfronts! The county was also concerned that our work would trigger algae blooms, even though we've never had them in this region. We brought common sense to our presentation, including newspaper ads, and held community meetings. We even had non-members from way up in Dorset, who would also have been affected, attend the meetings."

Recent events suggest that Haliburton County holds your HBA in high esteem.

"Our president, Tom Neville, accepted the Warden's Award on our behalf in October. It acknowledges work and commitment to the community and is the second-highest award that the Haliburton Chamber of Commerce bestows. We are truly honoured by it." OHB